



UNITED STATES MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA
May 16, 2013

OHCHR REGISTRY

Ms. Rashida Manjoo
Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women
and

Mr. James Anaya
Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
c/o OHCHR-UNOG
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10

22 MAY 2013

Recipients : SLD

Dear Ms. Manjoo and Mr. Anaya:

The Government of the United States of America received your letter dated February 18, 2013, regarding developments on reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). We are pleased to report that the U.S. Congress passed an extension of the VAWA in February, and that President Obama signed the extension into law on March 7.

This is the third reauthorization of the Act, with previous re-authorizations occurring in 2000 and 2005. This latest reiteration continues effective programs; expands the protections and services available to survivors of violence, including those who experience intimate partner violence and rape; and helps prevent violence in future generations.


The Act addresses domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It provides for safe shelters and housing assistance, legal services for victims, training for law enforcement officials, skilled prosecutors and victim advocates, and improved tools to investigate rape cases. It contains protections for immigrant battered women.

Indigenous women in the U.S. face disproportionately high rates of domestic violence, and the Act contains an important provision allowing indigenous tribes to prosecute non-Native perpetrators of dating and domestic violence against indigenous women for acts that occur on tribal lands. It also protects lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) victims from discrimination, and gives service providers new tools and access to resources to make their services more accessible to all victims. The law also extends protection from eviction and denial of housing to eight additional federally subsidized housing programs, building on the initial protections for victims in public housing that was part of VAWA 2005.

The full text of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 can be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdys/pkg/BILLS-113s47enr/pdf>.

Thank you for your interest in this critical piece of legislation to combat violence against women.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter F. Mulrean', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter F. Mulrean
Deputy Permanent Representative

